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CENTRAL FAX CENTER
JUL 20 2005Appln. No. 09/857,383
Amendment dated July 20, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 4, 2005REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

The April 20, 2005 Office Action and Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to point out patentable features of the claimed invention.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action claims 1, 3 and 9 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over USP 6,175,921 (Rosen) in view of the USP 6,026,375 (Hall et al.). Claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Rosen and Hall et al., and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0004783 (Paltenghe et al.).

The present claimed invention as defined by claim 1 is directed to a system for the execution of secure transactions in a multimedia network. The system includes a multimedia network (1) having customer stations (2), merchant servers (3) and a payment server (5) connected thereto. Secure electronic transactions are performed using a secure electronic transactions protocol including the exchange of digital certificates, uniquely

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identifying the relevant transaction participants and also attesting to their privileges at the merchant server. The certificates are managed by a trusted third party server (9) connected to the multimedia network. The payment servers validate the digital certificates presented and process authorizations concerning payment. The customer stations include transaction management means (10) for performing the secure electronic transactions protocol and for managing the certificates for the customer station. The system also includes a remote customer agent (13) managed by agent parameters received from the customer station and as a result, is under the control of the parameters. A remote customer agent represents the customer station in a negotiation process which includes selecting products to be presented by the merchant server, payment for selected products in a secure way, under control of a secure electronic transactions protocol, and the certificates. The payment process is performed between the transactions management means and the merchant server.

In rejecting claim 1 the Examiner relies upon Rosen in view of Hall et al. Rosen discloses (see Figure 1 and Abstract) that a customer trusted agent (CTA) establishes a cryptographically secure session at a merchant trusted agent (MTA). The customer

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trusted agent securely communicates with a first money module (in the transaction device 122 in Figure 3), and the merchant trusted agent similarly securely communicates with a second money module inside a merchant's device. A dialogue for agreeing on the payment terms is carried out between the trusted agents. Then, the first money module transmits electronic money to the second money module.

As admitted by the Examiner in the Office Action, Rosen does not disclose a negotiation process including selecting products to be presented by the merchant server. However, there are also other differences between Rosen and claim 1. In the Office Action the Examiner equates the term "customer station" in claim 1 to the term "customer transaction device" used in Rosen. The customer transaction device (CTD) is illustrated in Figure 3 of Rosen and explained in the related description thereof, and includes the trusted agent and the money module. Since the trusted agent is explained as being a part of the customer transaction device, the trusted agent cannot correspond to the remote customer agent as currently claimed. Rosen gives no indication to employ a remote customer agent, and the advantages gained by the customer agent which is remote from a customer station cannot be obtained from the teachings of Rosen.

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Furthermore, Rosen does not disclose, teach or suggest transmission of agent parameters from a customer station to a remote customer agent for controlling representation of the customer station in a negotiation process. Instead, Rosen teaches that the customer agent resides in the customer station. It is clearly pointed out in various places in Rosen that the customer agent functionality and the money module (taking care of the actual money transfer, i.e., payment process) reside in the same (customer) transaction device. The general purchase process is described with reference to Figures 12A and 12B of Rosen wherein a buyer transaction application (BTA) initiates the purchase action and is used for browsing through the seller's merchandise and for selecting a product. After selection of a product, the BTA then sends a message to a trusted customer agent within the same customer transaction device instructing the trusted agent to buy and identifying the selected merchandise (see column 17, lines 48-50 and Figure 3 of Rosen). Then, the customer trusted agent and the merchant trusted agent establish a session and finally a money module payment is performed between the money modules in the customer transaction device and the merchant transaction device. Thus, Rosen teaches that the customer trusted agent is used for paying and another entity (the BTA) is used for selecting the products. In contrast, in the

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present claimed invention the remote customer agent is used to represent the customer station in the negotiation process and the payment process is performed by transaction management means in the customer station.

Hall et al. disclose an order-processing system utilizing agent technology in a mobile environment. The Abstract and Figures 1, 2 and 6a to 6b of Hall et al. describe the basic functionality of the system. As can be seen from Figure 2 of Hall et al., the personal assistant agent (220) is part of a customer device. This personal assistant agent interacts directly with the customer (column 7, lines 14-15). There is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in Hall et al. to utilize a remote customer agent as recited in claim 1. Further, there is no indication in Hall et al. to arrange management of such remote customer agents by agent parameters from a customer station. Hall et al. also do not disclose any specific negotiation process between the personal assistant agent and a merchant server and thus fail to disclose, teach or suggest the negotiation process as recited in claim 1. The customer service agent (CSA) in the service provider's premises is defined at col. 7, lines 42-60 of Hall et al. to be responsible for receiving orders from customers and thus gives no indication towards applying a remote customer agent representing the customer station in a negotiation process.

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Even further, the cited references do not disclose, teach or suggest transmission of agent parameters for managing the remote customer agent.

That is, the present claimed invention as defined by claim 1 is patentable over the cited references because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest a system for the execution of secure transactions in a multimedia network including, inter alia:

transaction management means, fit for performing said secure electronic transactions protocol and for managing said certificates for the customer station;

a remote customer agent, managed by agent parameters received from said customer station and thus, under the control of said parameters, representing the customer station in a negotiation process, including selecting products to be presented by the merchant server, payment for selected products being performed in a secure way, under control of said secure electronic transactions protocol and said certificates, the payment process being performed between said transactions management means and the merchant server (see claim 1, lines 14-24).

Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 are either directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1 and are patentable over the cited references

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in view of their dependence on claim 1 and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in the aforementioned claims. Independent claims 9-11 are patentable over the cited references for reasons, inter alia, set forth above in connection with claim 1. (See claim 9, lines 6-19; claim 10, lines 3-7 and claim 11, lines 4-9).

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication that claim 8 is allowed and that claims 4 and 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged and appreciated. Claims 4 and 7 are not presented in independent form at this time in view of the asserted allowance of independent claim 1. However, Applicant reserves the right to present claims 4 and/or 7 in independent form if claim 1 is ultimately held not to be patentable.

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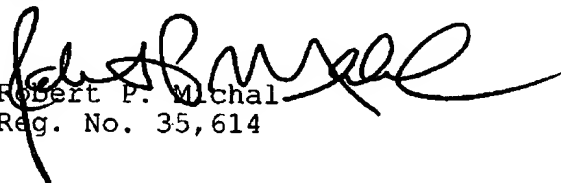
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Allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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